

# Joyful Apostolate

Spring 2013

## IN THE YEAR OF FAITH: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE!

Our Heart of Jesus Retreat Center is available to many thousands of children, youth and adults for decades, thanks to our generous friends, benefactors, who helped us to build and upkeep the facilities. For 30 years, it was made possible by an annual Gentlemen's Haberdashery event. A few years after it was discontinued, our dear friends, Tony Moiso, George O'Connell, their families and friends began to say that they would like to bring it back. It happened in the Year of Faith, to the great delight of everyone. Sister Jane's welcoming greeting: "It's like coming home, isn't it?", was met with a thunderous applause!



*Sister Jane with our faithful friends Tony Moiso (l) and George O'Connell*

All the 43 models, well-known businessmen, civic and religious leaders in the Orange County community, give a donation to be "models." Each man's personal introduction card was read out loud,

and it was all about their families, anniversaries, their children and grandchildren. One model was proudly carrying his baby daughter down the runway. Many models were "second generation," children of the original group of friends.

Everyone was happy to talk to our many Sisters attending, and filled out prayer intention cards. We are delighted to pray for them! A group of happy



children came to sing, and touched the hearts of our friends when they went to the tables, and gave out their handmade Thank You cards to each of the 480 guests.

# ***"God knows you by name"***

## **FROM THE HEART OF SISTER IDA**



Jesus says, "If you love me, I will make my home in you." What is a home? It is a place where you are loved, cared for, missed, accepted as you are, home is where you belong.

This home is offered to each of us in the Heart of Christ. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there." That is home!

God is like a parent; He did not *have to* have us but He *wanted* us. God reveals Himself in tender images: a hen protecting her chicks, a father watching for his son, a mother who would never forget her child.

God is our Parent who puts up with us, never gives up on us; His faith, love and trust in us is shown to us in so many ways!

Parents do not "rub it in" that they are present to their children, they just keep giving gently and generously. God is always coming with thoughts, plans, desires as the God of comfort and consolation.

God's love is given to us freely, uniting us, taking us into His Family, sharing His life with us. With the inner vision of faith, look beyond yourself; see the good and loving persons around you.

Do you see Him coming? He comes into our life, and into the life of every family. "If you love me, I will make my home in you."



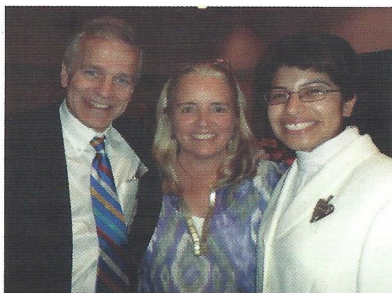
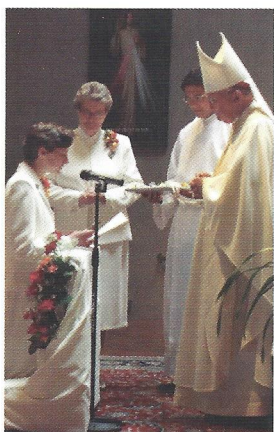
*me, He loves you personally.*

## YES, FOREVER!

What great joy in the Easter season! For the first time in our community's history, two Bishops witnessed the religious profession of our Sisters. Bishop Tod Brown was main celebrant of the Mass, and Bishop Kevin Vann, new Bishop of Orange, concelebrated with our priest friends.



*Left to right: Sister Guadalupe, Sister Jane, Bishop Tod Brown, Bishop Kevin Vann, Sister Hannah.*



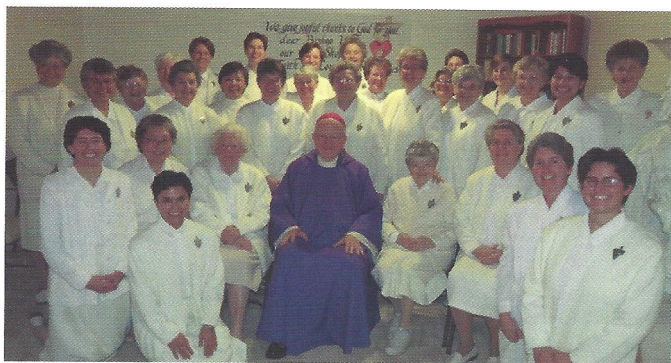
*Above: Our dear friends, Steve and Maura Walsh congratulate Sister Guadalupe during the reception. Left: Sister Hannah professing vows in Holy Spirit Church.*

In a church filled with our families and friends, Sister Guadalupe Ramirez professed her final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, "forever!" and Sister Hannah Barnett professed her first vows for two years.

It was a joyful privilege that both Bishop Brown and Bishop Vann joined us for the reception at our Heart of Jesus Retreat Center.

# *This is your dignity - you are*

## WELCOMING OUR NEW SHEPHERD



It was an exceptional joy that Bishop Kevin Vann came to our Mother House, to meet our community. After celebrating Mass, we took a picture (above). While Sisters put dinner out, Sister Jane showed Bishop Vann Sister Ida's room (rt) where he prayerfully remembered her.



During dinner, there was time for a heart to heart sharing about our community, about our missions, and about our catechetical apostolate in his diocese. Bishop Vann listened with the heart of a shepherd and brought joy and encouragement for our life devoted to the Sacred Heart. We were delighted to give him samples of our publications: the Catechist Companion in English and Spanish, a Sacred Heart Kids' Club DVD set, and booklets with Sister Ida's words: Source of our Joy, Source of our Hope and Source of our Strength.

### WITH SISTER IDA ON MT. KILIMANJARO!

When I set out to reach the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, I took with me a medal touched to Sister Ida's grave. I had heard that she was an avid hiker. At 15,000 feet, I still felt good but I was afraid. At night, I prayed to Sister Ida to help me and to watch over me. We had to start hiking up at 4:30 am. My fingers went numb, I had a headache. I asked Sister Ida to give me strength and help me overcome my fears. At 18,300 ft. I felt better! At the top I thanked Sister Ida for helping me, and placed



# *... His beloved child."*

*Sister Ida*

## **GLIMPSES INTO THE JOY OF FAITH**

Our hearts are filled with joy, praise and thanksgiving to our loving God for the many hearts He has enabled our Sisters to touch and bring to joyful life in faith. Listen to some of the many comments and reflections of those who were in our RCIA classes and baptized at Easter.

In St. Louis, MO: "God is Faithful" was the theme of the Leadership Retreat this year. The young women who attended thoroughly enjoyed having time to listen and reflect, talk and share, laugh and sing, and most of all listen to God speak to them in the depth of their hearts. At the end of the Retreat, each one received a Corita pin, because each became a Corita ("Little Heart"), a loving ambassador of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In St. Euphrasia parish, Northridge, CA: "The warmth, love, and grace of God, all that you taught me and I am continuing to learn, is coming to fruition. Now I can partake in Holy communion with my family and friends. This momentous occasion has left an immense imprint in my soul!"

In St. Bridget Parish, Los Angeles: Among the 6 adults and 3 babies baptized, was also, Gordon, a 4th grader in our religious education program in Chinatown. When Father said "From now on you are God's child," Gordon's eyes got bigger and brighter and he had the biggest smile on his face! It was he who, as a 2nd grader, had asked, "Dad, can you take me to class? I want to be a Catholic like you and my sister." Gordon is a great inspiration for his mother who is not Catholic, yet.



*Faith, hope, love, courage  
and joyful gratitude in two  
memorable pictures!*

the medal under the flags at the summit sign. I asked her to look out for all hikers coming up the mountain. She will always be there looking out for them! *Michelle Johnson*

*"In faith, allow God to take you by the hand along the path to the fullness of life."*

## **NEW EVANGELIZATION IN HUNGARY WITH ONE MIND AND HEART**

One of the many catechist formation courses was especially delightful, presented as a team by Sister Shannon, Sister Michelle and Sister Audrey in the city of Eger, at the request of the Archdiocesan Director of Religious Education.

All 55 catechists who attended were eager to learn Sister Ida's "Five Step Illustrated Method," and learn how to draw simple illustrations on the chalkboard to make the lessons "come alive" for their students.

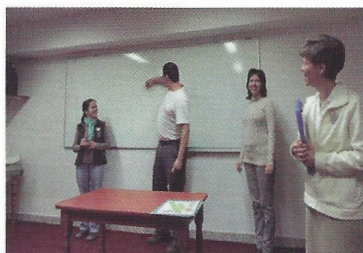
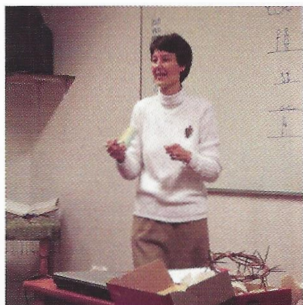
They practiced and presented lessons, to receive helpful guidance from the Sisters. All the teaching material and vocation literature put out by the Sisters "for the taking" was immediately gone.



While Sister Shannon was presenting a lesson on the Holy Trinity, and the unity of the three Persons, she clearly realized that it is that loving unity that we reflected, each of us working for the common goal, regardless of what role we had: creating a schedule, keeping time, leading a prayer service, giving talks, etc. It is a joy to be united, and living out the charism we received from Sister Ida.



by the hand and guide you  
truth which is Himself." Sister Ida



*Above left: Sister Shannon presents a lesson. Above: it was Sister Audrey's turn.*

*Left: Sister Michelle helped catechists to practice drawing simple illustrations, after she presented a lesson. Everyone admired and encouraged her progress in speaking Hungarian!*

One catechist happily recalled that she had actually attended a training session from Sister Ida in 1991. Ever since Sister Ida died, she has been faithfully praying and asking Sister Ida to be her companion, to know how to reach the hearts and minds of children.

It was an inspiring group, and they did not lack enthusiasm during the entire course. At the conclusion of the weekend, Sister Shannon asked the catechists to reflect and share their observations. Before they thanked the Sisters for the practical approach and the material, the first response of one man was surprising: "Sisters, I saw the unity of your community in the three of you; how you paid attention to each other; your smiles, joy and kindness. You reflected God's love to us."

Some of the catechists plan to invite our Sisters to give a spiritual retreat to their staff, and to give a retreat to their 400 students.